

US20000174

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism for a vertical axis automatic washer, [[said]] the washer having a rotatable wash basket, a rotatable agitator concentrically mounted in [[said]] the wash basket and a drive motor, said drive mechanism comprising:
a first drive shaft driven by [[said]] the motor at a first rotational speed and with a first torque,
a second drive shaft arranged to rotatingly drive [[said]] the agitator,
a mechanism arranged between [[said]] the first drive shaft and [[said]] the second drive shaft to convert [[said]] the first rotational speed and first torque to a second rotational speed and a second torque at [[said]] the second drive shaft,
a first clutch arranged between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the first drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the first drive shaft,
a second clutch arranged between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the second drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the second drive shaft, wherein the drive mechanism is configured to effect higher speed and lower torque during a water extraction mode and lower speed and higher torque during an agitation mode.
2. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the first drive shaft is connected to [[said]] the motor via a belt and pulley arrangement.
3. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the second drive shaft is connected to [[said]] the agitator via a direct spline connection.
4. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the mechanism comprises a gear mechanism.

US20000174

5. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 4, wherein [[said]] the gear mechanism comprises a planetary gear arrangement.
6. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 5, wherein [[said]] the first drive shaft is connected to a sun gear and [[said]] the second drive shaft is connected to a planetary gear carrier.
7. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the first clutch comprises a spline clutch.
8. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 1, wherein [[said]] the wash basket includes a spin tube arranged concentrically around [[said]] the second drive shaft and [[said]] the clutch comprises a tang clutch arranged between [[said]] the spin tube and [[said]] the gear mechanism.
9. (Currently Amended) An automatic washer comprising:
a rotatable wash basket,
a rotatable agitator concentrically mounted in [[said]] the wash basket,
a drive motor,
a first drive shaft driven by [[said]] the motor at a first rotational speed and with a first torque,
a second drive shaft arranged to rotatably drive [[said]] the agitator,
a rotatably mounted spin tube arranged concentrically around the second drive shaft,
a mechanism arranged between [[said]] the first drive shaft and [[said]] the second drive shaft to convert [[said]] the first rotational speed and first torque to a second rotational speed and a second torque at [[said]] the second drive shaft,
a first clutch arranged between [[said]] the wash basket and said first drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the first drive shaft,
a second clutch arranged between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the second drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the second drive shaft.

US20000174

10. (Currently Amended) An automatic washer according to claim 9, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the first drive shaft is connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the motor via a belt and pulley arrangement.
11. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 9, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the second drive shaft is connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the agitator via a direct spline connection.
12. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 9, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the mechanism comprises a gear mechanism.
13. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 12, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the gear mechanism comprises a planetary gear arrangement.
14. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 13, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the first drive shaft is connected to a sun gear and ~~[[said]]~~ the second drive shaft is connected to a planetary gear carrier.
15. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 9, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the first clutch comprises a spline clutch.
16. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 9, wherein ~~said wash basket includes a spin tube arranged concentrically around said second drive shaft and said~~ the clutch comprises a tang clutch arranged between ~~[[said]]~~ the spin tube and ~~[[said]]~~ the gear mechanism.
17. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism for a vertical axis automatic washer, ~~[[said]]~~ the washer having a rotatable wash basket, a rotatable agitator concentrically mounted in ~~[[said]]~~ the wash basket and a drive motor, ~~[[said]]~~ the drive mechanism comprising:
a first drive shaft driven by ~~[[said]]~~ the motor at a first rotational speed and with a first torque,
a second drive shaft arranged to rotatably drive ~~[[said]]~~ the agitator,
a planetary gear arrangement arranged between ~~[[said]]~~ the first drive shaft and ~~[[said]]~~ the

US20000174

second drive shaft to convert [[said]] the first rotational speed and first torque to a second rotational speed and a second torque at [[said]] the second drive shaft,
a spline clutch arranged between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the first drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the first drive shaft,
a tang clutch arranged between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the second drive shaft to allow for selective engagement and disengagement between [[said]] the wash basket and [[said]] the second drive shaft.

18. (Currently Amended) An automatic washer according to claim 17, wherein [[said]] the first drive shaft is connected to [[said]] the motor via a belt and pulley arrangement.

19. (Currently Amended) A drive mechanism according to claim 17, wherein [[said]] the second drive shaft is connected to [[said]] the agitator via a direct spline connection.

20. (Currently Amendment) A drive mechanism according to claim 17, wherein [[said]] the first drive shaft is connected to a sun gear and [[said]] the second drive shaft is connected to a planetary gear carrier.